

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Witness Wyatt Cravens, a member of Bogarts Volunteers. He was captured by Mormons after Crooked Creek.]

Wiatt Cravens a witness, produced sworn & examined for the State deposeseth and saith He was one in Capt Bogart's company, and was present in the fight with the Mormons the 25th Oct last, about day break in Ray city- Parley P Pratt and Capt Patton, appeared in command of the company that made ("the" crossed out] an attack upon us_ We were lying in camp when we heard them coming. We got up and prepared for battle. The mormons came in about 60 yards of us, and formed the line of battle, they approached in a body number-ing as near as I could guess about 150. armed with guns, sword & pistols to within about 40 yards of us, when the firing commenced by both parties about the same time, I can't say which side fired first_ I was taken prisoner by the mormons_ I saw Jos Smith Jr come to the Mormons at a house in log creek timber a few miles from the battle ground. The wounded were taken out of the waggon then, and we started on towards, Far West- J Smith Jr passed on by me to the head of the company, where Pratt & Wight halted the company, he Pratt & 4 others rode off a piece & conferred together, & then returned to the company_ - & called out some captain, and ordered him to call out 10 of his braves- 7 men came out, and I was placed under their guard, & told by Wight that they would escort me off & let me go about my business- We started back, and after getting near a field, the Capt of the guard and one other rode off ahead saying they saw ["a man" crossed out] some one- Shortly after the Capt returned alone. The declared ("they would" crossed out] I should be guard ["me" crossed out]-ed no further, and pointed out the path I should take, which led around the fence . I then thought the man who had not returned had been placed round the fence to Kill me, but I was determined to do the best I could to make my escape. In passing on I discovered my direction would lead me to where I thought the man was placed, and I took off to the right, and immediately I was ordered to stop by some person, whom I recognized to be the man of the guard, who left with the Capt of the guard &

did not return, I fled & turned my head to look & saw the man with his gun in a shooting position & shortly after, while running I was shot by him, & I made my way to Ray Cty. Parley P Pratt was in the battle_ Moses Rawlans one of Capt. Bogarts men, & several of the mormons was Killed in that battle, 5 of Bogarts company including myself were wounded, and further this deponent saith not_ C Wiatt Cravens Maurice Phelps a witness produced Sworn and examined for the State deposed and Saith, that Parley, that Parley P Pratt was in the Battle with Bogart, Darwin Chase was one of the expedition but not in the battle Lyman Gibbs was in the battle thinks Benjamin Jones was in the Battle a Norman Shearer was also & wounded. I was Called upon by Charles C Rich to go down to Crooked River to help releve some Mormons prisoners who it was said had been taken by a mob. I first refused to go but being threatened with force I consented to go we proceeded to McDaniels field in Ray Cony. where we were comnded to hitch our horses and we proceeded down to where Capt Bogart was encamped myself in the extreme rear the fight was brought on but I was not in it On our return from the battle ground near log creek timber in Caldwell Cony. we met Jos. Smith Jr Lyman Wight & others who went to the wounded and pronounced blessings on them & prayed for them to be healed & saved, when we started from McDaniel field fences the only command given that I heard was boys follow me given by commander by. I have been in two daniete meetings the first I did not make any exception to, & in the Second the following exception =able was inculcated. "that we should take spoil or plunder in some cases "but it was Objected to and I have never attended a danite meeting Since, the day before the mormons, went to Adam on diahmon J. Smith Jr in an address told an anecdote of a Dutchman who had been applead to by a Capt to purchase Potatoes. & Rigdon in speaking of dissenters who were unwilling to fight mobs. Said that they ought to be pitched upon their horses with pitchforks & Bayonets And forced into the front of the battle & their property confiscated to the use of the army the anecdote spoken of above about the dutchman was told by Smith after Rigdon address and without any